

**Access to Microfinance & Improved Implementation of Policy Reform  
(AMIR Program)**

**Funded By U.S. Agency for International Development**

**WTO Enforcement-Administration, Roadmap,  
and Component Leader Support**

Final Status Report

**Deliverable for Policy Component, Task No. 4.4.27  
Contract No. 278-C-00-98-00029-00**

*April 2000*

*This report was prepared by Mr. Gokhan Akinici, in collaboration with Chemonics International Inc., prime contractor to the U.S. Agency for International Development for the AMIR Program in Jordan.*

Date: 7 February, 2000

**Status Report**

<b>Task ID</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1. Customs training on customs valuation and professional ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task is being implemented by Ben Irvin:</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final arrangements are being completed for the 2-week training seminar on Customs Valuation. As you may know, this has developed into a major event. The Director General of Customs will open the seminar. Television and the Press will cover the opening ceremony. AMIR (Gokhan Akinci, Andy Grimminger) officials participated in the opening along with the DG of the Customs Department.</li> <li>The Jordan Traders Association and I have agreed to conduct a 1-day "customs valuation" seminar on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 until 1.</li> <li>Preliminary discussions have been conducted with Amman chamber of Industries, Chamber of Commerce and International Chamber of Commerce. Proposed seminar dates were been given to them and we are awaiting a final decision.</li> <li>Preliminary dialogues were made with appropriate officials in Aquaba for 2 seminars. One seminar would be for business entities and interests, and a second seminar would be conducted for clearing agents, freight forwarders, brokers, etc.</li> <li>We are discussing a 1-day seminar with business interests in Zarka and Irbid. Proposed dates have been communicated, and we are awaiting a decision concerning specific dates, times, location, etc.</li> </ol>
2. Implementation of the Law on Food and food related tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task is being implemented by Anthony Whitehead</li> <li>Please see Annex A for details on the status of this task</li> </ul>
3. Implementation of the Law on Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kim Hjort is implementing the task: <i>Please see Table 2 for status of this task.</i></li> </ul>
4. Implementation of the Law on Copyrights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task is being implemented by Dr. Talhouni</li> <li>Dr. Talhouni sent the Ad campaign to the NL (to the Director General) and they gave Dr. Talhouni their comments on the Ad early this week. The ad is now being scanned to be emailed to Farhat.</li> </ul>

5. Government Procurement Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A letter has been forwarded from MIT to WTO today after Dr. Halaiqah's signature Nadia and Maha are to follow up with Ms. Kulacoglu to see if she received the correspondence, her scheduling, and how she reacts to the letter.</li> </ul>
6. Government Procurement Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOW is out to IBLA and Andy as of last week. Salah will check and reply to Andy/Nadia ASAP.</li> <li>• IBLA already started working on the checklist</li> </ul>
7. Investor Road Map – Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A draft model law on licensing is being prepared (emailed to Farhat) by Leon</li> <li>• Leon to provide final report on his work and seminar ASAP</li> </ul>
8. Investor Road Map- Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patience to provide final report on his work and seminar</li> <li>• She is currently completing the draft by-law in the US</li> </ul>
9. SOWs and workplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are ready for the year 2000</li> <li>• Dr. Salah is currently reviewing the task orders. Nissreen promised prompt action on these today.</li> </ul>
10. Assessment of Jordan's accession to the WTO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Paper has been completed and sent</li> </ul>

Table 2. Kim Hjort Status

Task	Status	Problems/Issues
1 Provide on-the-job training to the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and WTO Unit on periodically updating ACC4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drafting report (training manual) on means and schedules for meeting notification requirements</li> <li>Letters/MOUs for obtaining necessary data from other government entities have been sent</li> <li>Training of MOA/PD/AEP/ITSD staff on ACC4 will commence shortly</li> </ul>	MOA staff in International Division is not very competent. Trying to broaden training to include other staff (some resistance). Am drafting a Division workplan and position descriptions to demonstrate need for other staff. GTZ assisting.
2 Assist the Ministry of Agriculture in the development of regulations and instructions to implement the Law on Agriculture	Met with GTZ and MOA counterparts to present my workplan. Commitment for full participation received. Regulation review will begin Feb 6.	
3 Assist the Ministry of Agriculture in ensuring that SPS measures applied in Jordan are applied in the least trade distorting manner and no stricter rules are applied than those laid out by international organizations such as OIE	<p>Will draft 2 critical regulations with MOA staff beginning week of Feb 21</p> <p>Met with Tony to discuss common issues.</p>	
4 Assist in the development of the inquiry and notification points on SPS (coordinate with TBT and SPS/Food experts) and establish data requirements, procedures, means and schedules for meeting notification requirements; assist in preparing initial notification	Developing preliminary workplan and position descriptions.	Need additional staff (see note above)
5 Streamline border control for agricultural products in accordance with Annex C of the SPS agreement		

Task		Status	Problems/Issues
6	Assist the Ministry of Agriculture in developing a program for identifying SPS measures inconsistent with international norms and for determining (based on scientific evidence) where higher protection may be kept		
7	Provide training on border control to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, JISM, and customs		
8	Provide education to importers and exporters on new procedures; develop and disseminate business guidelines		

**ANNEX A: STATUS REPORT – ANTHONY WHITEHEAD**

Date: February 6, 2000  
To: Gokhan Akinci  
From: Anthony J. Whitehead, Consultant  
Subject: Status Report of Mission to date

The following activities have been carried out from 1/31/00 related to my mission. Related to the elimination of shelf-stable food from Jordanian shelf life food standard requirements, a meeting was held with JISM on Feb.2. At that meeting, basic agreement was achieved on the approach to be taken, along with developing the strategy for the eventual complete review of current Jordanian food standards for conformity with SPS and TBT requirements. Further, plans were made for JISM's contribution to the eventual preparation of improved import and export food control procedures. A follow up meeting on February 6 resulted in the consultant receiving the first draft of a shelf life standard revision, identifying those foods which are excluded from shelf-life declaration requirements.

It is anticipated that a maximum of 4 months will be required to clear and adopt the revised standard. In the meantime, when and if the new Standards and Metrology Law is enacted, all standards which are identified to be potential trade barriers will be suspended and placed in a voluntary standard status, pending review and revisions, if appropriate. As of this meeting, the Consultant is now in possession of a complete list of Jordanian standards, which require review for conformity with SPS and TBT.

Related to the detention and rejection of imported consignments of frozen meat due to the shipping temperature deviations from international and Jordan frozen meat standards, the Consultant met with the Ministry of Health (MOH) on February 2. MOH indicated that following the AMIR workshop on this subject on 12 December 1999, a technical committee was appointed to review the entire problem. They desired that the consultant work with the committee in developing the appropriate solution to the problem. At present Dr. Barmawi, Director of the Food Hygiene Directorate of MOH is out of the country and will return within the next week. He is chairing this committee and would like to be present during the process.

The consultant also met with the Ministry of Planning (MOP) on 2 February to discuss the findings of that Ministry at a similar workshop held a week or so before the AMIR program. During this meeting, the consultant was requested to review the recommendation stemming from that MOP workshop and to make comment and suggestions. A follow up meeting was held on 3 February and suggestions were made on the recommendations. At that time the Consultant was informed of a meeting of the Ministerial High Council for Development to be held on 4 February to address this entire question. The Consultant was requested to attend the Council meeting, pending the approval of the Minister of MOP, and to make intervention as appropriate in support of the recommendations. I attended the meeting and made intervention as appropriate on technical issues. The Council agreed to establish a working committee to review the issues and make recommendations and this Consultant was requested to serve as a technical advisor to the

committee. The council is expecting recommendations from this committee in a couple of weeks.

In the meantime, the MOH has agreed to provide copies of all Health Regulations related to foods, some of which are in English upon the return of Dr. Barmawi some time within the weeks. A draft letter has been prepared requesting these regulations for the purpose of determining their conformity with SPS and TBT.

The Consultant also met with Consultant Kim Hjort on February 4 to discuss the position taken in the present debate by both the MOH and MOA related to jurisdiction over food control. This debate is presently holding up the consideration for passage of the new draft Food Law.